

WILL BE BENSON

Bank Commissioner Slated to Succeed Late W. F. Sapp.

State Committee to Name National Committeeman.

William F. Benson of Eldorado, retiring state bank commissioner, will probably succeed the late Col. W. F. (Bill) Sapp of Galena, as Democratic national committeeman for Kansas. Benson's candidacy was announced today in Topeka.



W. F. Benson of Eldorado, state bank commissioner in Topeka, who may be Democratic national committeeman from Kansas.

Benson is regarded as one of the strongest and most able men in Democratic affairs in the state. He was formerly state senator from Butler county, was appointed by Governor Hodges as state bank commissioner to succeed Charles M. Sawyer of Norton, when Sawyer was placed at the head of the federal regional reserve bank in Kansas City. During the 1916 campaign, Senator Benson was a member of the national campaign committee, and he is known to be close to men in touch with national affairs in Washington and on several occasions has received distinct recognition at the hands of President Wilson. Senator Benson, in company with Hubert Lardner of Fort Scott, state chairman, Otho Wood, United States marshal, and Harrison Parkman, postmaster of Emporia, were returning from the inaugural ceremonies in Washington when news was received of Col. Sapp's sudden death.

It is the plan of Chairman Lardner to call together the members of the state committee to select a new national committeeman. Sapp was serving his second term as national committeeman, having been re-elected over James W. Orr of Abilene, at the state convention in Hutchinson in 1916. Orr was subsequently nominated for state senator in the Atchison-Jackson county district and was beaten for the election. It is not known whether he will be a candidate to succeed Colonel Sapp.

A meeting of the state committee will be held in Topeka, probably late in March or early in April.

WILFULL WILLIE WINS

Senator Stone Succeeds as Chairman of Most Important Committee.

Washington, March 12.—Senator William F. Stone, criticized as one of the "willful men" who succeeded in blocking the president's "armed neutrality" bill during the closing hours of the last session, succeeds himself as chairman of the foreign relations committee.

The list of new committee assignments, announced today by the steering committee, shows Stone still heading the senate's most important subcommittee branch. His reputation, despite widespread criticism that some other man should replace him in view of Stone's failure to support the president at a critical juncture, and been forecast, on the belief that "senatorial courtesy" and "senatorial prerogative" was too strong to be disregarded.

Among other committee assignments agreed upon were Senator Thomas D. Morgan, succeeded by Senator O'Gorman on the foreign relations committee, and Senators Falls and Knag fill two Republican vacancies on the same committee.

In the new congress, beginning with the extra session, Democrats will provide over fifty-four senate committee and Republican over twenty. This is a gain of one for the Republicans over last year.

TRAIN HOLDUP BATTLE

Bandits Fire on Defacto Soldiers, Killing 45; Score Brigands Dead.

Juarez, March 12.—Salazar band of Villa bandits fired into a Mexican Central passenger train at Lacuna station Saturday, killed 45 of the defacto escort and wounding three passengers, according to employees of the Mexican Central who arrived here today.

They also said 20 of Salazar's men were killed and 22 wounded by the Mexican escort during the engagement, following the holding up of the passenger train.

Weak Lungs and Chest Troubles

respond more quickly to the blood-enriching oil-food in

SCOTT'S EMULSION

than to any other one medicine. SCOTT'S is a rich, nourishing food to strengthen tender throats and bronchial tubes. It is of peculiar benefit to the respiratory tract and is liberally used in tuberculosis camps for that purpose.

You get no alcohol in Scott's.

Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

CITY AFFAIRS

(Continued from Page One)

into politics. It is not always a winning game and is many times a source of grief and expense without any results commensurate with either. Business is better.

But to the Kiene platform. Mr. Kiene has given out a signed statement, reproduced in full below, in sections, serially:

First.—I am a candidate for mayor. This decision has been reached after long and mature deliberation and because I feel that my experience in public affairs places me in a position to render the citizens of Topeka the best service in the highest standards of citizenship. Unless the people are satisfied that I will do this, I give up the opportunity. I would not expect their support.

Everyone of the candidates believes he could make this same statement made in the Kiene opening paragraph, with the possible exception of Mayor Well. Mr. Corning, who failed in the race for congressman, has decided he would try for mayor; but his experience in the insurance business, his lack of bridge over some extent his lack of experience in public office as enjoyed by his three opponents. In the weighing of the success he might expect at both the primaries and the election, his training along insurance lines may be of a personal benefit to him, but of other three candidates can corral.

Mr. Kiene continues: The citizens of Topeka are pledged to the extent of municipal ownership. The successful operation of the city lighting and water plants has shown that the people themselves are capable of operating the utilities for the benefit of the city and the people. I am not in favor of the retention of those now owned by the city, but of an extension of such ownership when practical.

Upon this plank Mr. Kiene will find that he is in entire harmony with the mayor and present administration. No man would dare to run for mayor in Topeka on a platform of overruling our present successful municipal ownership of the city lighting and water systems; nor of opposing "the extension of such ownership when practical."

Mr. Kiene goes on: In line with this plan, the lighting and water plants should be owned and operated by the city. The successful operation of the city lighting and water plants has shown that the people themselves are capable of operating the utilities for the benefit of the city and the people. I am not in favor of the retention of those now owned by the city, but of an extension of such ownership when practical.

The mayor and Commissioner Newland, in charge of water and lighting plants, the State Highway Commission, the present city commissioners favor the consolidation of the lighting and water plants. In taking this plank, Mr. Kiene is in harmony with Mayor House's principles and that of the mayor's city associates and announces what might be called an axiom of municipal imperativeness, that a city which cannot be hurriedly carried out, involving a large bond issue, which would have to be submitted to the people.

In the last part of the plank above quoted, Kiene favors a municipally owned plant, which shall not only furnish light and water, but also furnish light to the people at as near cost as practicable. This, of course, means that the plant should be owned by the city and not by a private corporation.

Mr. Kiene continues: Expert accountants employed by the city found that there is now due the city from the Topeka Edison company a sum of \$100,000. Steps should be taken to collect this money at once.

Just why Mr. Kiene should inject this plank in his platform is not at the face quite apparent, because Mayor House and the city commission have been trying to collect the thousands of dollars which it is claimed is due the city from the Edison company. The city can use the money.

The mayor and commission endeavored to get an act thru the legislature which has just adjourned, which would provide payment by the Topeka Edison company of a percentage on the gross receipts, instead of the net receipts, the net receipts of any corporation being a move or less hazy, nebulous and uncertain proposition. However, the legislature is adjourning this week and the bill in question unfortunately has gone to the scrap heap.

It is now up to Mayor House to continue his best effort to collect this account or so much of it as can be collected. There is no doubt that the mayor agrees exactly with Mr. Kiene to the effect that "steps should be taken to collect this money at once."

The next paragraph of Mr. Kiene's statement goes into the gas question and is as follows: The city is suffering from an unmitigated famine for gas. I promise that it will not require the road of public indignation to force me to take an interest in the prevention of an outrage on the citizens of Topeka. I would also like to see the city of Topeka as a gas city. There is but one city in Kansas where a 30-cent rate is charged, and that is Topeka. The city should have no executive who would meet such a situation when it arises and do nothing about it. It is the duty of the people to prevent the discrimination and correct the evil.

Now we have it! The gas question is like Billard, taxes and death, always with us and the gas it self is with us part of the time; some day it will be with us all the time. We need it so much, and less of it in the winter when we do need it more, but the mayor, unfortunately, cannot solve this gas question. Even Governor Capper, ranking above a mayor, has tried to solve it but without success. The city commission has tried to produce the gas at a lower rate, with the result that after four years of the present administration has accomplished nothing excepting to re-

duce the supply and advance the rate neither of which is agreeable to the people of Topeka; but the utilities commission has laid down its platform, wherein it says that the commission has charge of the gas proposition and represents the mayor and municipality. The mayor is not in, however much he likes gas and more of it.

The better way, it seems to the writer, is to get gas at a lower rate is to get rid of the present Bristow-Kinkel commission, which was re-nominated by the city council, and elect a member of the legislature with a humorous turn, the "Public Utilities Commission." In a word, Mr. Kiene wants in his plank "to correct the evil."

Mr. Kiene wants in his plank "to correct the evil." He is a word with Mr. Kiene on this proposition. St. Joseph pays 60 cents for gas and can't get it. The City of Topeka could have a gas plant of its own, and the public utilities commission, Mr. Doerty, who has probably acquired the defunct Kansas Natural Gas company's interests has said he will deliver the gas at a reasonable rate and in good quantity, if litigation stops here you have it. We can't swap money and get gas, if we could we might offer "boots."

New comes another plank in the former sheriff's mayoralty content.

The police department is one of the two adjuncts of the city government for which the police department is the most important. The police department is the most important. The police department is the most important.

The answer to this is given in one of the opening sentences of this article. The police department is the most important. The police department is the most important. The police department is the most important.

Now comes the following plank, upon which Mr. Kiene proposes to run, wherein he cites the present inadequate police force as one of the city's most serious problems. The police department is the most important. The police department is the most important. The police department is the most important.

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In regard to remodeling the present city prison, Mayor House and every one else in Topeka is in favor of it. The city prison system should give way in a municipal farm, and the police station should be a hotel. The city prison system should give way in a municipal farm, and the police station should be a hotel.

Meanwhile, the city can profit by the Kansas City, Kansas, situation and, if the Kansas City, Kansas, city government can supply light to the homes and business houses at a much lower rate than the Topeka Edison company is supplying it to our people, this is a possibility that should be seriously considered. The city can profit by the Kansas City, Kansas, situation and, if the Kansas City, Kansas, city government can supply light to the homes and business houses at a much lower rate than the Topeka Edison company is supplying it to our people, this is a possibility that should be seriously considered.

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WASSON FEELS GOOD

City Collects Biggest Interest Amount in Its History.

Commissioner of Finance W. H. Wasson is feeling jubilant. He said today: "For the month of February the city collected as interest on its daily balances in the banks, the amount of \$1,659.69, the largest sum ever collected in one month. In the history of the city."

This excellent showing is due to the fact that banks now pay the city 3 per cent instead of the 2 per cent they paid a year ago. The increase to the city by this difference of 1 per cent paid the salary of the mayor for February and of Commissioner Wasson, and something more.

HELP YOUNG MEN

A. L. Fridstein Explains Universal Training Benefits.

He Urges Support of the Chamberlain Bill.

How the untrained young man is merely fodder for the cannon's maw is made plain by the speaker today at the Chamber of Commerce by A. L. Fridstein, field secretary of the Universal Military Training League. To make these same young men effective and better able to protect themselves in war, Mr. Fridstein urged the support of the Chamberlain bill, which would be introduced into the next session.

The speaker declared that universal training not only insures a nation's life, but its discipline improves the character of the young men of a nation, broadens their vision, improves their bodies, teaches constructive patriotism and orderly thinking. That this voluntary system is a failure has been proven, he declared, by its failure in England and England's adoption of compulsory military service.

Mr. Fridstein said, in part: "The question is how shall we frame our preparedness legislation so as to secure the greatest and most prompt effectiveness of our military training without encountering the dangers socially and the waste economically of a large and expensively maintained standing army or war machine."

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LOCAL MENTION

Alpha Stone, charged by his wife, Fern Stone, with wife and child desertion, was arraigned in the court of Topeka today and pleaded not guilty. His hearing was set for March 16.

Warrants have been issued from the court of Topeka for Earl McQuiklen and John Doe, charged them with stealing seven gallons of gasoline from an underground tank at 526 Quincy street. The complaint was filed by Albert St. Aub. The gasoline at 21 cents a gallon is valued at a valuation of \$1.47. McQuiklen has disappeared and the officers don't know who "John Doe" is.

The Topeka Auto Delivery, Phone 693 or 273, 116 W. 5th. Open day and night.—Adv.

There will be a bath house for men at the regular meeting of city commissioners, Commissioner Porter made a motion that the city clerk be instructed to advertise for bids for building a bath house for men at Gage park. The present bath house will be used by women this summer.

The city commissioners today placed an ordinance on first reading that conforms with the provisions of the better dry law passed by the legislature. Upon the first passage of the ordinance the city will be empowered to place dry bars and clubs in imprisonment upon the persons with liquor in their possession as the state.

Joseph W. Doran, owner of Walnut Park subdivision, is at the National hotel.—Adv.

Between noon and Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock the city commissioners will select clerks and judges of elections for the coming year. The election will be held, March 26, two weeks from today.

Commissioner Frank M. Newland and George P. Hayden, city attorney, must decide if there is any merit in a claim for damages against the city by the city commissioners meeting this morning by Robert Wallace, 65, 615 Lime street. Wallace was employed by the city as a water plant and while working there alleges that a defective wall on which he was standing gave way and caused a fall of from 10 to 12 feet, fracturing his right arm.

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BUY 6 DIRIGIBLES

U. S. Army Lets Rush Contracts Totaling \$649,250.

To Be 160 Feet Long by 31 Diameter; for Coast Patrol.

Washington, March 12.—Purchase of sixteen non-rigid, dirigible aircraft, a total cost of \$649,250 was announced today by the navy department.

The Curtiss Aeroplane company of Buffalo, N. Y., was awarded three for \$122,250, the Goodyear Aircraft company, New Haven, Conn., two for \$83,000; the Goodyear Tire & Rubber company, Akron, O., nine for \$250,000; and the E. F. Goodrich company, of Akron, O., two for \$83,000. Deliveries will begin within 120 days.

The dirigibles are the best of such type to be bought by the navy under the recent \$5,000,000 appropriation for aeronautics. They will be 160 feet in length, 31 feet in diameter, and will be equipped with radio communication and 100 horsepower motors capable of making a continuous flight of sixteen hours at thirty-five miles and a maximum speed of forty-five miles an hour for ten hours. The dirigibles will be able to operate from shore bases and alight on water surface in good weather.

The city commissioners today placed an ordinance on first reading that conforms with the provisions of the better dry law passed by the legislature. Upon the first passage of the ordinance the city will be empowered to place dry bars and clubs in imprisonment upon the persons with liquor in their possession as the state.

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